

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 1983

White House Conference on Productivity

The National Productivity Advisory Committee, established by President Reagan in 1981, announced today that it will convene the White House Conference on Productivity on September 22-23, 1983, in Washington, D.C.

William E. Simon will chair and L. William Seidman will co-chair the Conference and a steering committee established to oversee planning for the Conference. Other members of the steering committee include Lewis M. Branscomb, Harold J. Buoy, John T. Dunlop, C. Jackson Grayson, Congressman John J. LaFalce, Paul W. O'Neill, Senator William V. Roth, Jr., and Jayne Baker Spain. Jack L. Courtemanche will serve as Director of the Conference. In addition six subject matter committees will review all recommendations and suggestions received from individuals and organizations and ensure that areas specified in the legislation creating the Conference are considered.

In preparation for the final White House Conference, there will be four preparatory conferences conducted in different locations in the United States, beginning in June 1983, to consider specific issues and recommendations for stimulating productivity. Interested individuals and organizations are invited to submit their suggestions on what action government, community, employee and business organizations can take to improve productivity growth in the United States.

All suggestions and requests for information should be sent to The White House Conference on Productivity, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

On October 25, 1982, President Reagan signed legislation calling for a White House Conference on Productivity to develop recommendations for stimulating productivity growth in the United States. The President assigned responsibility for conducting this Conference to the National Productivity Advisory Committee, and expressed his belief that "under the auspices of the National Productivity Advisory Committee, a White House Conference on Productivity could make a significant contribution to the ongoing efforts in this area."

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Background Information

The legislation authorizing the White House Conference on Productivity, P.L. 97-367, specifies that the Conference should bring together experts and representatives of business, labor, academic and government organizations to develop background and recommendations on improving productivity growth. It outlines 11 policy areas for the Conference to consider with regard to their role in improving productivity:

1. Reorganizing the Federal Government to promote productivity improvement;
2. Promoting the benefits which result from implementing productivity improvement techniques;
3. Improving the general training and skill level of American labor;
4. Informing American businesses of foreign technology developments;
5. Sharing government research with industry;
6. Establishing awards for businesses and industries that make improvements in productivity;
7. Revising the tax laws to improve productivity;
8. Reviewing the effects of antitrust laws on productivity;
9. Reviewing our patent laws;
10. Improving the accuracy and reliability of productivity measures;
11. Revising Federal civil service laws.

The legislation provides for sending a conference report and recommendations to the President within 120 days of the Conference. It further provides for the President to send the Congress, within 120 days from the date he receives the conference report, his recommendations for legislative and administrative action necessary to implement the Conference recommendations he supports.

Conference Objectives

The White House Conference on Productivity will pursue four principal objectives:

1. Develop Recommendations. The legislation specifically mandates that the Conference develop recommendations for actions to stimulate productivity growth. To assure that it provides the President with the best options available, the Conference will use the recommendations developed already by the Advisory Committee as the basis for Conference proposals and will review additional suggestions submitted by interested individuals and groups.

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2. Increase Public Awareness. While many Americans are generally aware of a productivity "problem," most are unaware of the nature of the challenge or of the public policies necessary to meet it. The Conference will provide opportunities for a wide-ranging discussion on productivity, and what government, business, labor, and private institutions can do to improve it.

3. Promote Private Initiatives. In addition to discussing what government has done and can do to promote productivity growth, the Conference will focus on the role of business, labor and private institutions in meeting the productivity challenge. Many firms and organizations have been very successful in generating relatively high levels of productivity and in instituting systems for eliminating impediments to productivity. The Conference can provide a forum for making others aware of these initiatives.

4. Facilitate Public Debate. Fundamental reforms in government policies can occur only with broad based public support. The Conference can provide a forum for business, labor and academic leaders to debate such fundamental reforms without committing the Administration or the Congress to a position in advance. Moving to a simpler and more fair tax code is an example of an issue that merits further public debate.

Organization of the Conference

The National Productivity Advisory Committee (NPAC), which has overall responsibility for overseeing the White House Conference on Productivity, has established a series of committees to provide direction and to review Conference planning and activities.

1. Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Conference.

William E. Simon, Chairman of the NPAC, will serve as the Chairman of the White House Conference on Productivity. L. William Seidman will serve as the Co-Chairman.

2. Director of the Conference. Jack L. Courtemanche will serve as the Director of the White House Conference on Productivity. Mr. Courtemanche is the former owner and President of Crown Coach Company, a Los Angeles, California, manufacturer of buses and fine coaches. Previously, he was President of Automotive Equipment Company in Portland, Oregon, and had served prior to that as Vice-President of Mack Trucks, Inc. in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

3. Steering Committee. To provide direction and guidance to the various individuals that will be responsible for the different elements of the Conference activities, the Advisory Committee has appointed a Steering Committee composed of the following individuals:

William E. Simon, Chairman
Wesray Corporation

L. William Seidman, Co-Chairman
Arizona State University

Lewis M. Branscomb
IBM Corporation

Harold J. Buoy
Boilermakers International

John T. Dunlop
Harvard University

C. Jackson Grayson
American Productivity Center

John J. LaFalce
House of Representatives

Paul W. MacAvoy
Yale University

Paul H. O'Neill
International Paper Company

William V. Roth, Jr.
United States Senate

Jayne Baker Spain
George Washington University

In addition, the Committee will be working with the six subject matter committees and other labor, business, academic and government representatives.

4. Six Subject Matter Committees. The NPAC has also established subject matter committees of individuals who have expertise in particular areas for which recommendations may be developed. The committees and their chairmen are:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
Capital Investment	L. William Seidman
Human Resources	John T. Dunlop
Research, Development and Technological Innovation	Lewis M. Branscomb
Role of Government in the Economy	Paul W. MacAvoy
Government Organization and Operations	Paul H. O'Neill
Private Sector Initiatives	C. Jackson Grayson

The committees will be responsible for examining issue areas specified in the legislation and any others that may be added by the Conference Chairman or Co-Chairman.

The committees will review recommendations provided by the public and also will ensure that recommendations are developed in each of the issue areas specified in the legislation calling for the White House Conference. Recommendations should be submitted to the White House Conference office at least two weeks before the preparatory conference scheduled to consider the issue area.

5. Preparatory Conferences. The Advisory Committee believes that holding a select number of preparatory conferences will enhance the opportunities for achieving the Conference objectives. These conferences will be held on university campuses, or in other public facilities that will be readily accessible to the public. Four preparatory conferences are planned on the following subjects:

Capital Investment Durham, North Carolina June 14-16, 1983	Human Resources St. Louis, Missouri June 21-23, 1983
Government Organization and Operation, and Role of Government in the Economy San Diego, California July 19-21, 1983	Private Sector Initiatives Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania August 2-4, 1983

6. White House Conference. The final White House Conference on Productivity will be held in Washington, D.C., on September 22-23, 1983. Attendance at the Conference will be open to the public, but space limitations require that it be arranged in advance, by September 1, through the White House Conference offices.

The final Conference will include presentations and discussions by the committees based on the papers and recommendations received from the public or developed in their preparatory conferences.

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7. Conference Participation. Representatives of the Congress, the Administration, state and local governments, business and labor organizations, academic institutions and other organizations with relevant interests in productivity will be invited to participate in the White House Conference. Although participation will be by invitation, members of the public can arrange to present their papers, recommendations or views during an appropriate comment period during the preparatory conferences, in writing or by advance arrangement with the Conference office.

Conference participants or their sponsoring organizations will pay their expenses for attending or participating in preparatory conferences, committee meetings or the final conference.

8. Conference Office. The official Conference office will be in Washington, D.C. Any correspondence or recommendations should be submitted to:

The White House Conference on Productivity
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

The telephone number for the White House Conference office is 202-395-7362. All recommendations, suggestions and nominations for participation should be submitted in writing to the Conference office and accompanied by a one-page summary.

National Productivity Advisory Committee

The National Productivity Advisory Committee was established by President Reagan in Executive Order 12332 on November 10, 1981. Its members are:

William E. Simon, Chairman
Wesray Corporation
Morristown, New Jersey

Harold J. Buoy
Boilermakers International
Kansas City, Kansas

Lamar Alexander
Governor of Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

Lewis M. Branscomb
IBM Corporation
Armonk, New York

Jesse M. Calhoon
National Marine Engineers
Beneficial Association
Washington, D.C.

Nicholas T. Camicia
The Pittston Company
Greenwich, Connecticut

Justin Dart
Dart & Kraft, Inc.
Los Angeles, California

Michael K. Deaver
The White House
Washington, D.C.

John T. Dunlop
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Martin Feldstein
Council of Economic Advisers
Washington, D.C.

Clifton C. Garvin
Exxon Corporation
New York, New York

Harvey Goldstein
Singer, Lewak, Greenbaum
& Goldstein
Los Angeles, California

Peter Grace
W.R. Grace & Company
New York, New York

C. Jackson Grayson
American Productivity Center
Houston, Texas

Robert E. Hall
Stanford University
Stanford, California

David T. Kearns
Xerox Corporation
Stamford, Connecticut

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Alfred H. Kingon
Consultant
Washington, D.C.

William Konyha
Brotherhood of Carpenters
and Joiners of America
Washington, D.C.

Paul W. MacAvoy
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

Ruben F. Mettler
TRW Corporation
Cleveland, Ohio

Paul H. O'Neill
International Paper Company
New York, New York

John H. Perkins
Continental Illinois
Bank & Trust Company
Chicago, Illinois

Maurice R. Schurr
Brotherhood of Teamsters
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

L. William Seidman
Arizona State University
Tempe, Arizona

Jayne Baker Spain
George Washington University
Washington, D.C.

Charles F. Knight
Emerson Electric Company
St. Louis, Missouri

Laurence W. Lane, Jr.
Lane Publishing Company
Menlo Park, California

Donald S. MacNaughton
Hospital Corporation of America
Nashville, Tennessee

John J. O'Donnell
Air Line Pilots Association
Washington, D.C.

Gerald L. Parsky
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
Washington, D.C.

Richard F. Schubert
American Red Cross
Washington, D.C.

Donald V. Seibert
J. C. Penney Company
New York, New York

Roger B. Smith
General Motors Corporation
Detroit, Michigan

Arnold R. Weber
University of Colorado
Boulder, Colorado

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